

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY ALASKA  
Fort Richardson, Alaska 99505-5000

United States Army Alaska Pamphlet 750-2

14 February 2006

Maintenance of Supplies and Equipment

Cold Weather Driver Tips

**Summary.** This pamphlet about cold weather driving has been revised. This pamphlet offers tips to vehicle drivers for cold weather operations. This update reflects the change to United States Army Alaska (USARAK).

**Applicability.** This pamphlet applies to all motor vehicle operators and supervisors within USARAK.

**Supplementation.** Supplementation of this regulation is prohibited without prior approval from USARAK G-4, APVR-RDL-M.

**Suggested improvements.** The proponent agency for this pamphlet is the USARAK G-4, Maintenance Branch. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on Department of the Army Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to APVR-RDL-M.

**1. Purpose**

USARAK G-4 has compiled the following information to provide guidance for cold weather vehicle operation.

**2. General**

Temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit induce many vehicles to prematurely fail. When inspecting, starting, or operating your vehicle, closely observe the following precautions and procedures:

- a. Preheat. Preheat your engine and battery if the vehicle is equipped with an engine heater.
- b. Engine oil. When checking the oil level, look for water bubbles on the dipstick; smell the dipstick for fuel contamination; and feel the oil between your fingers for dirt or grit. If you find any of these conditions, notify your supervisor or maintenance noncommissioned officer.
- c. Cooling system.
  - (1) Use regular antifreeze from +32 degrees Fahrenheit to -90 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - (2) Check coolant, which should be within 1 inch from the filler neck bottom. If vehicle is equipped with recovery tank, ensure that the coolant is at the proper level.
- d. Batteries. Recharge batteries any time the specific gravity reading is less than 1.250. Keep batteries clean and dry; keep vents free of snow and mud. If water is added to the battery, run the vehicle engine at a high idle for at least 30 minutes.
- e. Tires. Increase tire pressure by 10 percent. Drive slowly until flat spots on tires have rounded out and tires flex properly.

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\*This pamphlet supersedes USARAK Pamphlet 750-2, dated 15 August 1996.

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- f. Air cleaners. Make certain the air cleaner intakes are free of snow and other foreign material.
- g. Air tanks. Drain daily after operation to prevent condensation from freezing in the tanks and lines. Close the drain cock immediately after draining the tanks to prevent the drain cock from freezing in the open position.
- h. Fuel filters. Drain daily to dispose of water.
- i. Fuel tanks. Remove snow and mud from around the fuel tank cap before removal when refueling. This prevents moisture from entering the tank. Always refuel at the operational day's end. Always top off fuel tanks to prevent condensation.
- j. Engine warm-up. Run the engine at 1,000 to 1,200 revolutions per minute. Never leave a running engine unattended. Preheat engine with fuel fired coolant heater if equipped.
- k. Idling engines. Do not idle gasoline engines more than 5 minutes when vehicle is waiting, loading, or unloading. When vehicles equipped with multi-fuel or diesel engines are in a static position for 30 minutes or less, operate the engines at the prescribed idling speed.
- l. Fuel additive. Add 1 pint of anti-icing agent for every 40 gallons of diesel added.
- m. Brakes. Do not park the vehicle with the service or hand brake applied. The brake lining may freeze to the brake drums. Before leaving the motor pool, and while moving at a slow speed, apply the brakes and release them to make sure they will stop your vehicle.
- n. Personnel heaters. Warm the cab thoroughly before turning the defroster on a frozen windshield. Turn the defroster on low for a few minutes to warm the glass slowly before turning to high.
- o. Driving. Drive slowly. Metal parts such as springs, shocks, and axles break easily in extreme cold. Apply the brakes in a pumping action to prevent skidding. Keep windshield glass and vision devices fog, ice, and snow free. Maintain an adequate distance from the vehicle ahead to allow easy stops.

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